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3 REMARKS
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5 The Examiner's thoughtful attention to this application is sincerely appreciated.
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8 The comments of the Examiner in the Office Action of March 18, 2003, are well
9 taken.
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11 The shrinking of the felt material to produce a **smooth resilient surface** is important
12 because:
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- 14
- 15 1. A smooth resilient surface is less abrasive and is less likely to abrade the
16 skin of an animal than a fabric with a rough surface finish.
17
 - 18 2. A smooth resilient surface is less likely to catch on the teeth of a dog and is
19 less likely to be readily chewed by a dog.
20
 - 21 3. A smooth resilient surface is more difficult for a dog to tear off the toy.
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- 23

24 Another important feature of the invention set forth at lines 1 to 8 of page 8 of the
25 Specification is the ability of the dog toy to bend in the manner indicated by arrows L and
26 M in Fig. 1. This feature of the invention has been incorporated into the amended Claims
27 and does not appear to be fairly suggested by the *Koros et al. reference* or by the
28

1 **unsealed** toys set forth in the other references of record. A toy that is sealed and
2 bendable is safer for a dog to utilize. Conventional **sealed** objects like footballs are
3 substantially **rigid** and are not intended to bend.
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6 Applicant respectfully submits that the amended Claims are not rendered obvious
7 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 by the references of record.
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9 If the Examiner finds merit in the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is believed
10 the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.
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13 Respectfully submitted,
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